

Tourism, Environmental Management Systems, Wildlife Conservation and CITES Experts Kenya

OPPORTUNITY: The U.S. Department of the Interior's (DOI) International Technical Assistance Program (ITAP) is seeking qualified experts in tourism infrastructure improvement, environmental management systems certification, endangered species conservation and CITES implementation to provide technical assistance in Kenya.

BACKGROUND: DOI ITAP provides assistance to developing countries on subjects of Departmental expertise, on a reimbursable basis. The program is currently operating in seventeen countries with support from organizations such as the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the Millennium Challenge Corporation.

Kenya's natural resources and in particular its biodiversity and wildlife are among the country's most valuable assets. Approximately 8% of Kenya's land is set aside for wildlife in its 56 parks and reserves with a large area encompassing a network of communal and private land as dispersal areas and corridors for the wildlife. The continued conservation and management of these areas is critical and necessary for the long-term viability of Kenya's national heritage. Four critical areas identified by Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) that are needed to protect Kenya's national heritage include: protected area management support, institutional management strengthening, science-based conservation to enhance management of protected and non-protected areas, and enhanced wildlife co-management.

To achieve these ends, KWS has developed a 5-year workplan for a Wildlife Conservation Program. DOI-ITAP will support KWS in its 5-Year Workplan by providing technical assistance in the areas of tourism infrastructure improvement, Environmental Management Systems certification, endangered species conservation, and strengthening CITES, as follows:

- (1) Design renovated park entrance gates and new camp sites and visitor trails in Mt. Kenya Forest Reserve and Aberdares National Park.
- (2) Help three of Kenya's parks prepare for certification under International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 14001, an international set of standards for environmental management systems (EMS) that would recognize these parks as having minimized their harmful impacts on the environment caused by their operations and activities, and help them plan for continuously improved environmental performance.
- (3) Planning and training on the development of a Cheetah Conservation Plan for the country.

(4) Planning and training for the strengthening of the CITES Unit in Kenya.

At this juncture, no further detail regarding these assignments is available, but further information will be available during the candidate interview process.

ASSIGNMENT: It is anticipated that 4 to 8 teams will travel to the region sometime between 2007 and 2010. The assignments will be for approximately 2 weeks in the field, with two weeks required for preparation and two weeks for follow-up at duty stations within the U.S.

SCHEDULE: These two-week assignments will likely begin in the fall of 2007, at the earliest, with some degree of flexibility for setting dates amenable to selected candidates.

PRE- AND POST-TRIP DUTIES: All travel and in-country logistics will be handled by DOI-ITAP. Background material will be provided to the selected individuals prior to departure. The selected individuals will be expected to work in collaboration with the DOI-ITAP manager on the preparation and follow-up for the technical assistance over phone and email.

Within 3 weeks of the completion of the trip, the team will provide the DOI-ITAP manager a brief draft trip report of the trip events, evaluations made, and recommendations for future related training and technical assistance in Kenya.

COSTS: The International Technical Assistance Program will cover all travel costs associated with this assignment (round-trip airfare, lodging, meals, immunizations, per diem, etc.). The salaries of the team members, however, will be paid by their employing DOI agency for the duration of the international assignment, including pre- and post-trip obligation.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Persons wishing to be considered for this assignment:

- Must be a current or retired employee of DOI;
- Must have demonstrated experience in one or more aspects of the following:
 - Park Facilities Planning and Management
 - Camp and Trails Management
 - Park Operations
 - Environmental Management Systems
 - Biological Inventory and Monitoring
 - Endangered Species Conservation
 - CITES Program Management
 - Wildlife Inspection
- Must have demonstrated ability to work with and adapt to the needs and abilities of agencies and professionals of different ethnic or cultural groups;
- Previous international experience in eastern Africa is desirable.

Upon selection, candidates must submit a current physician-signed letter or medical review form indicating fitness for duty.

If you are selected for this assignment you will be responsible for obtaining your supervisor's approval to participate in this program.

HOW TO APPLY

Persons interested in being considered for this international assignment should send a resume or letter summarizing relevant work experience. A form SF 171 is acceptable. Please submit applications (electronically is preferred) to:

Emily Joseph
Office of International Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW MS 3547
Washington, DC 20240
Tel: (202) 208-3624
Fax: (202) 501-6381
E-mail: emily_joseph@nbc.gov

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis and will be reviewed and interviews conducted as they are received.

All NPS applicants should also copy their applications to Rudy D'Alessandro in the NPS Office of International Affairs.

Employees of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement are required to have supervisory approval prior to submitting an application.

Application Process

A short list of candidates will be interviewed by telephone. The entire selection process may take several weeks. All candidates will be notified of the results of the selection process by telephone, email or letter.

The position is open to all applicants that meet the stated requirements.